

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/553,327

Applicant(s)

MENS, WILHELMUS REINERUS MARIA

Examiner

Dixomara Vargas

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 07/05/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 8-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-5 and 8-15 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: ✓
 - a. With respect to claim 1, the claim has been found allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a magnetic resonance imaging system comprising a reconstruction unit arranged to iteratively adjust the phase correction on the basis of the distribution of phase values of the complex image in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.
 - b. With respect to claim 9, the claim has been found allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a magnetic resonance imaging system comprising a reconstruction unit arranged to compute a distribution of phase values of the complex image represented by a histogram and, control the phase correction on the basis of the distribution of phase of the complex image by adjusting the phase values of the complex image by adjusting polynomial coefficients of a polynomial phase correction so as to optimize the test function in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.
 - c. With respect to claim 10, the claim has been found allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a magnetic resonance imaging method comprising the step of iteratively adjusting the phase correction on the basis of distribution of phase values of the complex image to generate an iteratively

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adjusted phase correction that enhances peaks in the distribution of phase values relative to broader structures in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

d. With respect to claim 11, the claim has been found allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a digital processing unit including a processing unit programmed to iteratively adjust the phase correction on the basis of a test function of the distribution of phase values of the complex image that discriminates whether the distribution is predominant by peaks or by broader structures, the iterative adjustment being ended when the test function indicates that the distribution is dominated by peaks in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

e. With respect to claim 14, the claim has been found allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a magnetic resonance imaging system comprising a reconstruction unit is arranged to control the polynomial phase correction on the basis of the distribution of the phase values of the complex image by iteratively adjusting polynomial coefficients of the polynomial phase correction in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

f. With respect to claims 2-5, 8, 12-13 and 15, the claims have been found allowable due to its dependency on claims 1, 10 and 11 above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited in the PTO 892 discloses reconstruction systems with phase correction.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dixomara Vargas whose telephone number is (571) 272-2252. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00 am. to 4:30 pm..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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